

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended). An image processing apparatus comprising:

a filtering processor that includes a filter and ~~switches~~ is configured to switch between a pre-filtering path and a post-filtering path;

a data compressor ~~that compresses~~ configured to compress image data output from the filtering processor;

an image data storage unit configured to store ~~that stores~~ the image data compressed by the data compressor; and

a data ~~expander that expands~~ expander configured to expand the image data stored in the image data storage unit, wherein

the pre-filtering path includes a first path ~~sending~~ configured to send a raw image data to the data compressor via the filter and a second path ~~passing~~ configured to pass the image data expanded, and

the post-filtering path includes a third path ~~passing~~ configured to pass the raw image data to the data compressor and a fourth path ~~sending~~ configured to send the image data expanded to the filter.

2 (Currently Amended). The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data compressor is configured to irreversibly ~~compresses~~ compress the image data output from the filtering processor.

3 (Currently Amended). The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the filtering processor ~~switches~~ is configured to switch between the pre-filtering path and the post-filtering path based on information of the image data.

4 (Currently Amended). The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the filtering processor ~~switches~~ is configured to switch to the pre-filtering path when a ratio of character information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.

5 (Currently Amended). The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the filtering processor ~~switches~~ is configured to switch to the post-filtering path when a ratio of character information and picture information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.

6 (Currently Amended). A method for filtering image data comprising:  
choosing between a pre-filtering path and a post-filtering path;  
filtering raw image data when the pre-filtering path is ~~chosen~~ chosen;  
compressing the image data filtered when the pre-filtering path is ~~chosen~~ chosen, and  
compressing the raw image data when the post-filtering path is ~~chosen~~ chosen;  
storing the image data compressed;  
expanding the image data stored; and  
filtering the image data expanded when the post-filtering path is ~~chosen~~ chosen.

7 (Original). The method according to claim 6, wherein the compressing includes irreversibly compressing any one of the image data filtered and the raw image data.

8 (Original). The method according to claim 6, wherein the choosing includes

choosing between the pre-filtering path and the post-filtering path based on information of the image data.

9 (Original). The method according to claim 8, wherein the choosing includes choosing the pre-filtering path when a ratio of character information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.

10 (Original). The method according to claim 8, wherein the choosing includes choosing the post-filtering path when a ratio of character information and picture information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.

11 (New). The image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering processor is configured to output data to the data compressor and to receive data from the data expander.